

## True Parents' World Speaking Tour in Oslo, Norway from April 30 - May 1, 2011

Steinar Murud

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That the True Parents, Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, should set their eyes on Oslo, Norway, was both a surprise and blessing for Scandinavian Ambassadors for Peace and Unificationists. From their landing in Oslo Airport on Saturday, April 30, True Parents shared a lot of happiness. Their visit coincided with the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) European Leadership Conference taking place in the Stortinget (the Parliament) in Oslo the same weekend. That evening, our international Chairman, Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, addressed the 120 participants in European Leadership Conference and elaborated on the role of religion: "Some study and view religion with academic eyes as an outsider, viewing it as a phenomena, but religion is more than a phenomena and should not be viewed at a distance but rather as means for all to discover God."

The morning had seen impressive presentations on the theme "Towards Lasting Peace in a World of Rapid Change" including top speakers from Norway's International Affairs and Peace Institutes. That same evening we had a special experience walking in the street of Oslo together with members of True Parents' Family – Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, Ye Jin Moon, and Rev. In Jin Moon – that led to enjoying an evening meal together at the Oslo Fjord. The next morning, May 1, we shared Hoon Dok Hae together in the intimacy of True Parents' hotel suite. It was a very joyful experience. After the reading, True Parents asked for songs from many present culminating with True Mother singing and True Father joining her while all joined in the accompanying dance. The Main Event, Sunday 1st May in the Bristol Hotel, Oslo. The venue for True Father's speech, the Bristol Hotel, combined the style of old-world Oslo with the elegance of a beautifully prepared function hall filled to overflowing with a dynamic mixture of young

and old from all over Scandinavia and even from further away, since Father and Mother Moon's tour is drawing attention from all over Europe.

The hotel had never seen such a crowd before with some 700 in eager attendance.

Songs by Torhild Nigar and the Lorentzen Family provided a warmth and beauty which readied the audience for the spiritual feast ahead. Dr Thomas Walsh, UPF's International President, guided the moving interreligious prayers expressed by Buddhist, Hindu, Moslem, Christian and Sikh representatives. Major Nils Steen Egelién, who served in the Korean War and is President of the Norwegian Korean War Veterans, spoke movingly of his love for Korea, its people, its culture, and the phoenix-like life of Rev. Moon. Dr. Wim van Eekelen (former Dutch Defence Minister) placed Father Moon's UPF work in the context of European efforts to make peace after the devastation of two world wars, through changing the context and understanding others. All led beautifully to Rev. Hyung Jin Moon's moving testimony to his parents' love and dedication for the liberation of God and humanity in their role as the True Parents of Heaven Earth and Humankind.

True Parents came to the stage to rapturous applause. Surveying the audience from the podium, Father sheltered his eyes from the lights and noted the presence of many young people: "We (older people) know what it is like to be young; we must not forget what it is like to be young!" Father's message was passionately delivered and peppered with interesting extemporaneous remarks. "I am over 90 years old, why should I come all the way to Norway? Because I know what I'm talking about. I was taught by God, and have the responsibility to teach the world. I can't bear to keep it to myself. I need to teach the world. People who pray know what I am talking about." "Korea has moved beyond the level of Spain and is now the 13th largest economy in the world. Who assisted this? Not just Koreans – it was God who allowed Korea to advance to that level. God has established Korea as the place where I could appear. Thousands of times I could have died, but I survived – the God of the night led me through."

"Are you confident?" he continued. "What kind of confidence? You don't know God or the nature and existence of the spirit world – you have to know God's will. You don't know the time we are living in, but this significant time is drawing near." Referring to the many volumes and various anthologies of his teachings, Father Moon urged us to study them: "Your property, honour, glory - these textbooks are more valuable than all of these! Many people are trying to tell you false things, but what I tell you I have learned from God. I thought I would die, and now am talking about these things in Oslo, the home of the Nobel Peace Prize. Who would do these kinds of things? I would because these things are true." "There is no other chance, no other choice – we must understand the heart of heaven. Please pray about this and you will come to understand what I am talking about. In Nepal, seven thousand people passed the Original Divine Principle Test. Now Norway should also teach the Original Divine Principle in kindergarten, junior school, middle school, high school, university, at different levels – these are words that will educate the world. Just as the Founder's Address concluded, True Mother appeared on stage to join True Father in receiving flowers and a gift presented by Scandinavian Ambassadors for Peace, among them Pal Arne Davidsen (Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Progress Party), who had helped us so much in the Parliament the day before and Hon. Marion Pedersen, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament fresh back from a trip to Bolivia.